

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original) A method of treating finished garments comprising cellulosic material so as to cause cross-linking, which comprises the step of treating fabrics with an effective amount of a blocked cross-linking agent for cellulose, said cross-linking agent being thermally activated.

Claim 2 (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein, when activated, the cross linking agent is capable of reacting with the hydroxy groups of the cellulosic material to form an ester linkage as hereinbefore defined.

Claim 3 (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the cross linking agent comprises a blocked polycarboxylic acid.

Claim 4 (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein the polycarboxylic acid is blocked by esterification with an electron-withdrawing alcohol or imide to form a polyester.

Claim 5 (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein the polycarboxylic acid is succinic acid, butyl tetra carboxylic acid (BTCA), 3,6-dioxaoctanedioic acid, tartaric acid, mucic acid, glutamic acid, methylamino diacetic acid, or nitriloacetic acid.

Claim 6 (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein the blocking alcohol or imide comprises one or more of:

- a) trichlorophenol,
- b) isoeugenol,
- c) menthol,
- d) 4-cyanophenol,
- e) ethyl salicylate,
- f) 2,6-dimethoxy phenol,
- g) 4-aminophenol,
- h) dimethylamino phenol, and,
- i) N-hydroxysuccinimide.

Claim 7 (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein the blocking alcohol is odiferous.

Claim 8 (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein the polyester comprises one or more of:

- a) the trichlorophenol diester of succinic acid,
- b) the trichlorophenol diester of BTCA,
- c) the N-hydroxysuccinimide diester of succinic acid,

d) the isoeugenol diester of succinic acid, and,

e) the menthol diester of succinic acid.

Claim 9 (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the cross linking agent comprises a blocked isocyanate.

Claim 10 (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the blocked isocyanate comprises a blocked hexamethylene diisocyanate.

Claim 11 (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the blocking group is a moiety of one or more of:

- a) Meldrum's Acid,
- b) Phenol,
- c) 4-Nitrophenol,
- d) 4-Methoxyphenol,
- e) Methyl Salicylate,
- f) diethyl malonate,
- g) succinimide and/or
- h) sodium bisulphite.

Claim 12 (Original) A method according to claim 1 which further comprises the step of heat curing the cellulosic material.

Claim 13 (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein heat treatment is performed at a temperature of from 50 to 250C, more preferably at a temperature of from 100-200C.

Claim 14 (Original) A method accord to claim 1 wherein the cross-linking agent has a molecular weight below 1500 Dalton.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) A composition for use in the method of ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 which comprises an effective amount of a blocked cross-linking agent for cellulose, said cross-linking agent being thermally activated.

Claim 16 (Original) A composition according to claim 15 further comprising a textile compatible carrier.

Claim 17 (Original) A composition according to claim 16 wherein the textile compatible carrier comprises a surfactant.

Claim 18 (Original) A composition according to claim 15, packaged in the form of a spray.